

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00366 161523Z

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0366

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET REPS OF JULY 10, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON JULY 10, US REP, ACCCOMPANIED BY
US DEPREP, OSD REP AND JCS REP, HAD DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET
REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY AT INVITATION OF SOVIETS.
SOVIET MILITARY ADVISOR KAPETONOV WAS ALSO PRESENT. THE
DISCUSSION, WHICH FOCUSED ON THE ISSUE OF FORCE DEFINITIONS,
BROUGHT SEVERAL INTERESTING POINTS TO LIGHT BUT DID NOT
RESULT IN ANY EASTERN MOVEMENT. IT BECAME APPARENT THAT,
WHATEVER THE FORMULATIONS USED, THE MAIN SOVIET MOTIVE WITH
REGARD TO DEFINITIONS AT THIS TIME WAS TO MOVE THE POLISH

AND CZECHOSLOVAK GROUND-BASED AREA AIR DEFENSE PERSONNEL TO
THE AIR FORCE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00366 161523Z

2. KHLESTOV MADE CLEAR FROM THE OUTSET THAT, IN THE PRACTICAL SENSE, HE HAD ONLY THREE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE PROPOSED WESTERN DEFINITION: (A) FRG PERSHING MISSILE PERSONNEL SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO GROUND FORCES RATHER THAN TO AIR FORCES; (B) ALL PACT TERRITORIAL AIR DEFENSE, I. E., THE POLES AND CZECHOSLOVAKS, SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO THE AIR FORCES; (C) HELICOPTER PERSONNEL AND PERSONNEL OPERATING LIGHT FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE GROUND FORCES.

3. KHLESTOV INDICATED HE WOULD NOT OBJECT IF, ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF TREATING LIKE FORCES THE SAME, WHICH THE EAST PROPOUNDS, HELICOPTER PERSONNEL AND PERSONNEL CONCERNED WITH LIGHT FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT WERE ALLOCATED TO AIR FORCES. BUT HE THEN RESISTED A QUESTION WHETHER, ACCORDING TO THE EASTERN POSITION, IT WOULD NOT BE JUST AS LOGICAL TO PLACE ALL GROUND-BASED TERRITORIAL AIR DEFENSE IN THE GROUND FORCES AS IN THE AIR FORCES. THIS INDICATED A DESIRE TO PROTECT THE POINT THAT THE POLISH AND CZECHOSLOVAK GROUND-BASED AREA AIR DEFENSE PERSONNEL BE MOVED TO AIR FORCES.

4. KHLESTOV MADE REPEATED EFFORTS TO PERSUADE US REP TO AGREE EVEN IN A TENTATIVE WAY TO THESE FORCE ALLOCATIONS OR, FAILING SPECIFIC RESOLUTION OF THESE CASES, TO AGREE TO THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE THAT THE SAME TYPES OF FORCES SHOULS BE ASSIGNED TO THE SAME MAJOR FORCE CATEGORY, EITHER AIR FORCES OR GROUND FORCES. US REP FLATLY DECLINED TO ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL. HE INDICATED IT MIGHT BE PROFITABLE TO TRY TO REACH SOME INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING AS TO THE FORST TWO GOALS SPECIFIED BY KHLESTOV IN THE INFORMAL SESSION OF JULY 10, COMPREHENSIVENESS, AND DIVISION OF ALL FORCES IN THE AREA BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR FORCES.

5. KHLESTOV RESPONDED THAT HE WAS INTERESTED ONLY IN A PACKAGE DEAL: THAT IS, BEFORE HE WOULD AGREE TO THE FIRST TWO POINTS, HE WANTED SOME DEGREE OF AGREEMENT AS TO DISPOSITION OF THE THREE DISPUTED CATEGORIES. KHLESTOV ALSO INDICATED SOME RESUCTANCE TO AGREE TO THE CONCEPT OF EXCLUDING THE FRG READINESS RESERVE FROM THE POSSIBLE DEFINITION, CLAIMING THAT THOSE PERSONNEL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL. US REPS POINTED OUT THAT THIS FRG GROUP DID

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00366 161523Z

NOT EXIST AS YET AND THAT IT SHARED THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESERVES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. AT THE END OF THE DISCUSSION, KHLESTOV RETURNED TO AN UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF A SLIGHTLY EXPANDED VERSION OF THE SOVIET DEFINITION PRESENTED IN THE INFORMAL SESSION OF JULY 1.

6. US REPS ASKED KHLESTOV WHY THE WARSAW PACT WAS AT THIS LATE DATE URGING THAT ALL FORCES IN THE AREA BE DIVIDED INTO

GROUND AND AIR FORCES DESPITE ITS OWN CLAIMS THAT ITS
FORCES WERE DIFFERENTLY ORGANIZED AND THE FACT THAT IMPLI-
MENTATION OF ITS OWN PROGRAM WOULD REQUIRE NO SUCH DIVISION
OF ALL FORCES IN THE AREA INTO TWO FORCES. KHLESTOV GAVE NO
CONVINCING REPLY, BUT DID STATE THAT THE SOVIETS CONTINUED
TO INSIST ON REDUCTION OF AIR FORCES.

7. IN A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF GENERAL ISSUES, KHLESTOV MADE
A PITCH FOR INCLUSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN REDUCTIONS.
HE SAID A WESTERN MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION WOULD BE HELPFUL
FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

REMAINDER OF REPORT TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.RESOR

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